

Headlines Himalaya

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Editorial Team: Nisham Thapa and Shweta Khadka

For the 473rd issue of Headlines Himalaya, we reviewed 25 news from 12 sources and selected 25 happenings from five countries. In Nepal, tiger populations are up in a recent survey conducted by Bardia National Park. In India, Himalayan worm snake has been rediscovered in Uttarakhand. In China, Himalayan chrysanthemums commercial farming goes at large scale. While in Bhutan, apple price plummets as export to neighbouring nations is ceased.

Headlines Himalaya, a weekly e-News is an attempt to keep our global readers abreast with the happenings in the Himalaya. Please share it with your colleagues and friends. Also, subscription is free. Enjoy!

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LIVELIHOOD UNDER THREAT

For years, 32 households in the bank of Tamur River, eastern Nepal have been forced to drink polluted water due to water scarcity. Drinking dirty water is not their option but a compulsion, even knowing it causes water borne diseases, skin allergies and risk of life while fetching water from the river. Locals of Karkale, Saptling, Ghangharu, Safaitar, Pokhare of Dhankuta Municipality-9, have been struggling for water.

Sep 11

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/27317/>

GLOBAL WARMING: HIMALAYAS ON DANGER

Nepal's Himalayas are at risk due to rising temperature, resulting from global warming. According to the recent study by ICIMOD, annual temperature in the Himalayan region rises by 0.05 degree Celsius. By 2030, the temperature is assumed to rise by 1 to 2 degree Celsius. Intense snow melting has serious effect on mountain ecosystem, tourism and the risk of turning snowy mountains into rocky cliffs due to swift industrialization in our neighbouring countries.

Sep 12

<http://bit.ly/2wRe5Ed>

TOURIST EXPENDITURE DECREASED

Tourism is a growing industry supporting the national economy of Nepal. Increasing hotels with unhealthy competition offering good services at low rate and travel packages by agencies has resulted in less expenditure by tourists. Nepal has received 238,591 tourists in 2015, 359,672 in 2016, whereas, 500,000 in 2017. According to the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, a tourist spent US\$ 68 per day in 2015/16, but only US\$ 52 in 2016/17.

Sep 12

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/27402/>

CROWD OF GORKHALI CUSTOMER IN TIBETAN MARKET

Since the route through Ngula pass, north central Nepal started from August 25, people of western Gorkha rely on Tibetan market that open once a year. According to locals, they need to collect food item for the entire year in a period of month using 80% of their yearly earnings. Due to the lack of fertile land, locals depend upon the Tibetan market which is far feasible than the district headquarter.

Sep 12

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/27400/>

RUSH OF TOURIST MAKES ANnapurna CIRCUIT BUSY

Adventurous trek route of Annapurna has attracted a huge number of tourists, seeming Manang, western Nepal appear like a foreign country. According to the Conservation Area Chief, 22,800 foreign tourists and 8,000 domestic tourists visited Manang last year, whereas the number has reached 80 to 100 per day this season. The area provides hospitality, humble service, art exhibition, culture and display of attire worn by locals.

Sep 13

<http://therisingnepal.org.np/news/19921>

SHUKLAPHANTA ON TRACK AFTER MONSOON

Shuklaphanta National Park, far western Nepal welcomes visitors a month prior to the opening date. According to the Chief Conservation Officer, roads inside the park are safer to drive after rain. This year, tourist flow has increased rapidly to 2,600 from 1,900 tourists after the wildlife reserve is changed into the national park to enjoy serene nature and wildlife regime.

Sep 14

<http://bit.ly/2flfuH2>

BUFFER ZONE: FOR CONSERVATION OR OIL STORAGE

Chitwan National Park, south central Nepal, a UNESCO World Heritage site, habitat for endangered flora and fauna is expecting an oil storage depot without EIA. Nepal Oil Corporation has bought around 3.7 hectares of land in buffer zone, paying five times the price of land. According to the Chief Conservation Officer, there are specific provisions to be followed for infrastructural construction in the buffer zone. Extraction of resources is forbidden due to its negative impact on environment, nevertheless NOC is starting up huge foundations with risk of flood and threat to biodiversity.

Sep 14

<http://www.myrepublica.com/news/27534/>

MONKEY TERROR IN KATHMANDU

District Forest Office (DFO), Kathmandu, central Nepal has received complaints of monkey (*Rhesus* spp.) terror from Budhanilakantha School, Om Hospital, Pashupati and Swoyambhu frequently this month. According to DFO, the concern of monkey terror is ruling over complaints of other wild animals. Only the damages caused by 14 wild animals are compensated. During the amendment of directories, no parameters for compensation for damage caused by monkeys were listed.

Sept 16

<http://bit.ly/2yAOQbE>

HARD TIME FOR TREKKERS

Trekkers are being affected in Annapurna circuit, northern Nepal due to the absence of health facilities. There are only two health facilities, one in Manang at an altitude of 2000 m and the other in Mustang in a 22 days trekking route. So, trekkers are prone to high altitude sickness and other diseases. According to local entrepreneurs, limited health facilities are found while moving on the high altitude, which compel trekkers to quit the trek or even lose their lives. Proper government concern is needed to improve health services by 70 to 100 trekkers trekking per day.

Sept 16

<http://bit.ly/2ht1wcV>

FLOOD TAKES AWAY RHINO CALVES

Rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) calves are suspected to have swept away in the flooding of Chitwan National Park, south central Nepal. According to the officer, 3 rhino calves were killed being swept away with their mother, whereas 8 adult rhinos were saved from India and taken back to CNP. Recently, rhinos are weak, thin and in disarray for being swept away to a new habitat and facing post-disaster traumas. Furthermore, officers are conducting rhino census 2018 in order to check the status of the rhinos in the park.

Sept 17

<http://bit.ly/2x24H4N>

GOOD NEWS: TIGER NUMBER RISES

According to recent survey of Tiger (*Panthera tigris*), population has risen by 12, making the total of 62 adult tigers and 13 cubs in Bardiya National Park (BNP), south western Nepal. Habitat conservation, habitat protection, availability of water resources and sufficient prey inside the park are main proxies behind tiger conservation. BNP is the attraction site for 18,000 tourists with an earning of NPR 3.16 million in 2016-17 from tourism industry alone.

Sept 17

<http://bit.ly/2jUe9Su>

DOLPHIN NUMBER DECREASING GRADUALLY

Endangered species listed by IUCN, dolphins (*Platanista gangetica*) declined by 66 per cent in Karnali River, western part of Nepal. According to last year survey, 63 dolphins residing in Karnali River and its tributaries have declined to 22. Habitat loss and hunting by humans are considered as the cause of high risk of extinction of the world's most endangered cetaceans.

Sept 17

<http://bit.ly/2wgc45i>

ADULT LEOPARD RESCUED

A full grown male leopard (*Panthera pardus*) was rescued and shifted to the Assam state zoo, north eastern India by a joint team of forest and veterinarians without harming it from Pandu Temple Ghat, Guwahati, north eastern India. Local people have encountered the animal several times during the late hours.

Sep 13

<http://bit.ly/2xzY2yB>

CHILDRENS MOST VULNERABLE TO DISASTERS

The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) is planning to provide village level training and awareness to the local people as children below the age of 14 years are found most vulnerable to any kind of disasters. In most of the cases, negligence by the parents or elders is one of the main reasons for the loss of lives of children. The ASDMA by creating awareness aims to reduce the death tolls in case of flood or any other disaster.

Sep 13

<http://bit.ly/2jWDrzD>

FOREST MARTYR'S DAY OBSERVED

The officers and staffs of Eastern Wildlife Division, Kaziranga, north eastern India organized and observed Forest Martyr's Day on September 13 at Kohora Social Forestry Memorial Park. Forest guards who risked their life to protect the wild animals of Kaziranga National Park were honoured with floral tributes.

Sep 14

<http://bit.ly/2htFp6a>

REDISCOVERY OF RARE SNAKE SPECIES

Himalayan Worm Snake (*Trachischium laeve*) also known as Olive Oriental Slender Snake was rediscovered from Uttarakhand, northern India by an Indian scientist. This inoffensive and non-venomous species of snake has greater historical significance than other common species of snake of India. Advanced study of this rare species could help reveal evolutionary link between India, Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

Sep 14

<http://bit.ly/2wfvR4B>

TIGER CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

With an aim to establish Nandhour Wildlife Sanctuary (NWS) as the third tiger reserve of Uttarakhand, northern India, The Wildlife Institute of India and Zoological Society of London are jointly undertaking the Trans Boundary Tiger Conservation Program at NWS. With total 35 tigers at present, the program is aimed to increase tiger count by promoting anti-poaching efforts and involving locals in the conservation activities.

Sep 15

<http://bit.ly/2wRbNoH>

DENGUE AND SWINE FLU ON RISE

The threat of dengue and swine flu continue to terrorize the people of Jammu, northern India as 14 more cases of dengue and one case of H1N1 flu were found positive in 24 hours with the total 59 cases of dengue and 9 cases of swine flu reported. The yellow fever mosquito is successful at spreading dengue as it feeds on human blood only. The Health Department of Jammu has already started various awareness programs amongst the people.

Sep 15

<http://bit.ly/2xpGAgY>

INJURED ELEPHANT CALF RESCUED

An Elephant calf (*Elephas maximus*) was rescued from a narrow drain in a tea garden at Kaziranga National Park, north eastern India by its mother initially and later by local people when it fell down again. Although the baby elephant is showing some sign of improvements under ICU treatment, it is still not out of danger. Animals in the national park are going through this problem often, especially calves due to the presence of drainage system at the very corridor of wild animals.

Sep 16

<http://bit.ly/2wMI45j>

China Himalaya

SNOW CHRYSANTHEMUMS BLOOMING

The Southwest China's Tibet has started large-scale cultivation of snow chrysanthemums (*Chrysanthemum* sp.) this year. They have replaced barley and other crops due to their high economic value. They are used as high value medicine as they contain 30 kinds of minerals and more than 20 kinds of amino acids along with vitamins, enzymes and organic acids essential to humans.

Sep 14

<http://bit.ly/2xvl5sG>

DIGITIZATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGES

With an aim to preserve the intangible cultural heritages, numbers of dances, operas and poems have been digitized in Tibet, southwest China. Till now it has collected a total of more than 100,000 transcriptions, more than 1,500 audio and video tapes, and more than 40,000 photographs. Tibet has been promoting its cultural heritages through exhibition centres established in different parts of country.

Sep 15

<http://bit.ly/2wN2bjM>

TRAVEL EXPO FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

The fourth Sichuan International Travel Expo opened on Sunday at Sichuan province, eastern Tibetan Plateau hosting more than 2,000 guests from 74 different countries with an aim to thrive Sustainable Tourism Development. The home of giant pandas due to its rich natural resources and diverse culture has rapidly developed tourism in recent years.

Sep 17

<http://bit.ly/2fLMdvy>

Bhutan-Himalaya

INJURED BEAR RESCUED

An endangered Himalayan black bear (*Ursus thibetanus laniger*) was rescued by the team from the Nature Conservation Division (NCD) from Haa district, western Bhutan after local people had injured it with several arrows and spear. Deputy Chief Forest Officer stated that although the locals are allowed to set traps, it is illegal to attack the endangered species caught in trap.

Sep 13

<http://bit.ly/2xE8iGj>

APPLE PRICES DROP

Bhutanese exporters this year are going through a critical phase as the price of best quality apple drops from USD 23.39 to USD 9.35. Stoppage of export to the Bangladesh and the Indian states of Assam, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, northern India due their own harvest led to the price fall. Poor packaging of the apples has also impacted the market scope, though they are of best quality and better taste.

Sep 13

<http://bit.ly/2xDzkxv>

HAILSTONES: CONSEQUENCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Peshawar, north western region of Pakistan on Wednesday noon received sudden rainfall and egg-sized hailstones. Experts stated that hailstones in Peshawar are one of the negative impacts of climate change. Rescue team has not yet reported any kind of loss of property and life.

Sep 14

<http://bit.ly/2htTRL9>